

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 3RD, 2022 AT 6:30 IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

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| Mel Powell | Chairman |
| Jowan Johnson | Vice Chairman |
| Lanier Keene | Commissioner |
| Alfonza Hall | Commissioner |
| Clay Reid | Commissioner |
| Toni Sawyer | County Attorney |
| Michael Pomirko | County Manager |
| Indya Tisdol | County Clerk |
| Janet Mauldin | Superior Court Clerk |
| Kimberly Walker | Deputy Clerk |
| Adam Dowdy | Road Superintendent |
| Larry Brown | EMA Director |
| Janice Brown | Coroner |
| Carolyn Elsberry | Tax Commissioner |
| Robert Rodgers | Sheriff |
| Michael Welch | Sheriff Dept. |
| Richard Rhodes | Cedar Creek |

Chairman Mel Powell called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson gave the invocation.

All gave the pledge of Allegiance.

Janet Mauldin, Clerk of Superior Court, addressed the commissioner's about the scanning project she wants to pursue. She stated that Kofile offered to lock-in prices at a discounted rate, if the Commissioners would agree to move forward with the project, and the job could begin next year. Janet suggested that the Commissioners lock-in the start date now, so that it will be finished before the elevator project begins. Chairman Mel Powell asked when the start day would be. Janet replied and stated that Kofile can begin at any time. County Manager, Michael Pomirko, asked what would the cost be, and Janet responded, "\$114,000." Janet also mentioned that not all of the documents that need to be scanned belong to Clerk of Court, and some of the documents belong to the City of Abbeville. County Manager, Michael Pomirko, stated that we could only use \$750,000 dollars out of the American Rescue Plan funds per fiscal year, or we would be flagged to have a second audit in one fiscal year which would cost a large amount of additional funds. He suggested that we start the project in the new fiscal year, and Janet stated that it needs to be as soon as possible. Kofile would reimbursement the scan project for up to three years of deeds. Commissioner Lanier Keene asked about the scanning process and Deputy Clerk, Kimberly Walker, stated that we are scanning documents from current all the way back to 1970s.

Vice Chairman Jowan Johnson motioned to move forward with the start date for scanning.

Commissioner Clay Reid seconded that motion that carried unanimously.

EMA Director, Larry Brown, stated that the ponds would be finished when Richard Rhodes finishes inspection, and all ponds would be turned in at one time. The inspection of these ponds would potentially increase the county's ISO rating.

Janice Brown, Coroner, mentioned that there are still no vans available. She found one, but it was over the \$37,500 budget. The one van that she found was priced at \$54,000, and it was not a high-top which is what she would prefer to have. She stated that someone had mentioned purchasing her current van if she wanted to sell it. She did put her name on the list at Jeff Smith, but the price is over budget. However, she stated that if she were to sell her current van, then it may make up the difference amount that is needed for purchasing the new one. In addition to that, whatever van she does purchase, a partition would have to be installed which is an estimated cost of \$1500 or so.

County Manager, Michael Pomirko, had a conversation with Linda Westberry (USDA) about the purchasing timeline of the coroner's van, and she stated that we can keep individual items open in the grant application and submit everything else for completion.

Coroner, Janice Brown, asked if her current van could be sold to make up the difference. County Attorney, Toni Sawyer, said that you can reject a bid if it is lower than the asking price, but the county would have to declare it surplus.

Chairman Mel Powell asked if it has to be bid before selling. Janice stated that Jeff Smith could not estimate when the van she inquired about would come in. Commissioner Lanier Keene asked what would happen if she sold her current van and the new van was no longer available. Janice responded and said that she doesn't have to transport or something could potentially be worked out with Cordele, Hawkinsville, or EMC, if necessary.

Richard Rhodes, Cedar Creek Fire Chief, informed the Commissioners of the forestry grant that matched up to \$5,000 and the fireworks grant that was \$22,500 that his department received. He informed the Board that the EMT classes had been wrapped up and completed with 16 graduates. In addition to that, the firefighter class that started in January had three out of five participants pass. The dive team which partnered with Sumter County is up and running. They do not have to be certified, but there are specialized classes available for it.

The Sheriff department presented a cash deposit to the Commissioners in the amount of \$12,500 to be deposited into the general fund account. Sheriff Rodgers stated that Wilcox County has some of the lowest fines compared to other counties. He asked the Board if they would be willing to raise traffic fines after checking with surrounding counties in regards to their fine fees. Traffic citation in Ben Hill/Crisp is \$300 compared to our \$150. In order to create any new county ordinances or to add to what ordinances the county already has, the Sheriff would have to consult with the County Attorney, Toni Sawyer, and Magistrate Judge, Shawn Rhodes. The Sheriff explained to the Commissioners the benefit of having county ordinances would be to keep all funds here instead of divvying them up between local and state government. The Sheriff also stated that the jail can only hold up to 16 people, and currently, he has about 22 inmates in holding cells. The Sheriff emphasized that if ordinances were written for these inmates, Magistrate Court could potentially handle more of the cases instead of clogging up Superior Court's calendar. Sheriff Rodgers informed the Commissioners that traffic problems are getting worse, and he reiterated that these ordinances would help because they could issue a ticket and send the offender on their way instead of taking them into custody, housing them at the jail, and waiting for court appearances in most cases.

Sheriff Rodgers concluded his time by speaking with the Commissioners about the upcoming last payment on the lease for the final truck. Sheriff Rodgers mentioned that he currently has three cars in the shop, and one of his Tahoe's is constantly being put in the shop. Sheriff Rodgers stated that he was not sure where the county funds stand with the CARES act, but if he cannot get new vehicles, then he wants to consider renewing a lease. Sheriff Rodgers asked the Commissioners again to consider helping with the county ordinances.

County Attorney, Toni Sawyer, stated that it would go through Magistrate on county ordinances unlike statutes of O.C.G.A going through Superior Court. She gave an example that a misdemeanor marijuana charge would go through Magistrate court, and the funds are kept within the county. Additionally, the offender does not have to acquire a record.

County Manager, Michael Pomirko, stated the he was already in the process of creating a base ordinance. Commissioner, Lanier Keene, asked if the ordinance that was passed 10-12 maybe 13 years ago had been found. County Manager, Michael Pomirko, stated that he had found a few and was still searching for the remaining ordinances. County Attorney, Toni Sawyer, mentioned what Michael was referring to is codifying the code and typing them up legally.

Commissioner, Lanier Keene, stated he was told that the ordinance was already passed, but it was never really enforced to his knowledge.

Sheriff Rodgers asked again about the traffic fines and if the discussion would be for the Board or for the Magistrate Court. Chairman Mel Powell replied that he would have to go before Judge Rhodes, and then they could discuss further action.

Jacob Stephens addressed the Board of Commissioners about possibly bringing new potential business to the county which would create more jobs. He asked the Board of Commissioners how they felt about his plans in Wilcox County, and Commissioner Clay Reid said to Jacob Stephens that he knew how he felt about it already. Commissioner Lanier Keene informed Jacob Stephens that the Development Authority would be the best point of contact. Jacob Stephens mentioned that the reason the company he manages is leaving Cordele is because of their feelings towards their business, and he wants to know will there be any ill feelings if he brings business to Wilcox County.

In other news, Charles Futch, Director of EMS received \$1,197 per ambulance from the Trauma Grant which is funded by super speeder tickets.

Vice Chairman Jowan Johnson asked was there still going to be a four way put on Sibbie Road. The LMIG bid projects needed a motion for Lance and Ronnie to move forward, stated County Manager, Michael Pomirko.

Commissioner Clay Reid motioned to move forward with the LMIG bid projects. Vice Chairman Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

County Manager, Michael Pomirko, stated that we needed a motion to sign the resolution for the retirement plan.

Vice Chairman Jowan Johnson motioned to sign the resolution. Commissioner Alfonza Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Reports for the Department of Treasury were completed May 24th at 3 p.m. on the EMS building.

TSPLOST project will be going on the ballot for everyone to vote.

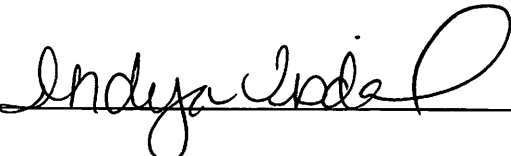
Vice Chairman Johnson motioned to discuss personnel & landfill acquisition in executive session. Commissioner Lanier Keene seconded that motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Clay Reid motioned to enter back into regular session. Vice Chairman Jowan Johnson seconded that motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Clay Reid motioned to end the meeting. Commissioner Lanier Keened seconded that motion.



Chairman, Mel Powell



County Clerk, Indya Tisdol